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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2654
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1858
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1981
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0554
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1258
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1615
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2037
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4468
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1108
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000252

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AF/S FOR S. HILL
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: POST-ELECTION UPDATE: MDC CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS

REF: HARARE 249 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

[¶1.](#) (U) Embassy Harare lifted its Stand Fast, issued last night, this morning. Harare and the rest of the country are calm as people await the announcement of election results.

[¶2.](#) (U) The MDC held a press conference at 11 am. MDC secretary general Tendai Biti announced that the MDC had

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results on 128 of the 210 House of Assembly seats. Of these, the MDC had won 96. In the race for president, with 931,653 votes reported to the MDC by its polling agents, Biti said Tsvangirai had won about 60 percent, Mugabe 30 percent, and

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Simba Makoni 10 percent. Acknowledging the probability of rigging in the vote count, Biti said a worse case scenario was a runoff.

[¶3.](#) (U) Biti derided SADC for declaring yesterday that Zimbabwe's election was "free, fair, and credible." Pointing to problems in the run-up to the election and irregularities during the election, he said that a free and fair election in Zimbabwe under current conditions was not credible.

[¶4.](#) (C) A member of the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) told us that ZESN would not release its parallel vote count until the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) results were complete. She said ZESN did not have sufficient results to credibly present findings at this time. (COMMENT: We had hoped ZESN could release its findings before ZEC results in order to place pressure on ZEC. END COMMENT.)

[¶5.](#) (C) The MDC told us that at its next press conference, possibly this afternoon, it expects to have sufficient election results to announce a Tsvangirai victory. Tsvangirai will personally make the announcement.

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¶6. (C) COMMENT: While the MDC insists Tsvangirai will gain over 50 percent of the vote, it appears resigned to a runoff.

We understand dissident elements within ZANU-PF, including General Solomon Mujuru have been in contact with Tsvangirai, and are seeking to deny a Mugabe victory. Mujuru and his people have contacts within the ZEC and may well be in a position to prevent rigging that would give Mugabe an outright victory. While Biti feels that a runoff is the worst case scenario, given the perfidy of ZANU-PF, a runoff may represent a best case scenario. END COMMENT.

MCCEE